The Canadian Methodist Historical Society

1902

The Third Annual Lecture under the auspices of the Society was held in the Chapel of Victoria College, Nov. 20th, 1902.

The chair was taken by C. C. James, Esq., M.A., Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, who called upon the Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D., to conduct devotional exercises.

After a few very appropriate introductory remarks, the chairman introduced the lecturer of the evening. Chancellor Burwash then proceeded to give (by the courtesy of his publishers) a chapter from his work on "Egerton Ryerson" shortly to be issued from the press of George N. Morang & Co.—the chapter selected setting forth the part taken by Mr. Ryerson in the discussion which preceded the settlement of the Clergy Reserve question.

At the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks was tendered to the lecturer for the very able and stirring address with which the society had been favored.

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that he had received $26.50, and had expended for printing the constitution, circular letters and postage $17.27, leaving a balance on hand of $9.23.

The meeting adopted the recommendation of the executive committee that there be an annual membership fee of fifty cents.

The Rev. J. F. McLaughlin, the Curator of the Society, presented his report as follows :—

Report of the Curator

The department of Methodist History and Literature in the library of Victoria College contains now about 1,500 volumes, besides many unbound periodicals and pamphlets. This collection includes all the standard works and many rare volumes of British and American Methodist biography, history and theology. It includes also sets of conference, educational, missionary and other church publications, in many instances complete.

During the last year there have been received by donation, largely through the influencs of this Society, many valuable additions to the collection, among which the following may be mentioned : Rev. G. O. Huestis, Lunenburg, N.S., 3 vols.; Rev. George Webber, 2 vols.; Dr. G. M. Aylsworth, Collingwood, from the library of the late Dr. Aylsworth, 107 vols.; Rev. W. H. Barraclough, Dawson, Yukon, 3 vols.; Rev. E. R. Young, Sr., 1 vol.; Rev. Dr. Withrow, 71 vols.; Rev. W. H. Musgrove, Seymour, Ill., the *Christian Guardian*, 1840-1870; Rev. Dr. Potts, 1 vol.; Rev. Dr. W. C. Henderson, Palmerston, 9 vols.; Mrs. Fish, from the library of the late Rev. Chas. Fish, 22 vols.; Mrs. A. L. Langford and Mrs. C. W. Kerr, from the library of the late Rev. Thos. Stobbs, 50 vols.; Dr. A. D. Watson, 1 pamphlet ; Mr. Walter M. Ridley, 2 vols.; Rev. Dr. Maclean, Halifax, 7 pamphlets. About 40 vols. were also added by purchase. For this purpose there is as yet no fund provided,

and the curator is dependent upon the voluntary subscriptions of friends. It is desirable that such a fund should be immediately formed. Many valuable books and documents can be obtained from time to time by a small outlay, which otherwise may be lost or carried to the lihraries of other countries. It is our duty as Methodists, surely, to preserve the documents and literature of our Church and to keep alive the memory of the heroic days of its founders and of its planting in this country. In furtherance of this part of the work of the Society, the curator would urge each member to interest himself in the collection of such books, manuscripts, portraits and records of every sort as may illustrate the history of our Church in this country from its beginning down to the present time.

Action of General Conference

The General Conference in Winnipeg adopted the following resolution in regard to the work of this Society. Report No. 2, sec. 8, Committee on Memorials, p. 193, Journal of 6th General Conference :

"Your committee recommends that the custody of the Journals of Conference and other official records of our Church no longer in continuous use by the bodies concerned, be committed to the Historical Society, to be kept in fireproof safes or vaults at one of our colleges and catalogued and held available for the authorized officers or any other accredited person for consultation and examination. We further recommend the work of the Society to the hearty co-operation of all the officers and members of our Church as a work of great importance to its interests."

Officers for 1903

The Officers for 1902-3 were elected as follows :

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Rev. N. Burwash, S.T.D., LL.D., Toronto.

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Rev. A. Carman, D.D., Toronto.
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Jas. Lawson, Esq., Toronto.

EX-OFFICIO :

Rev. G. Richardson (Hamilton Conference), Toronto.
Rev. W. J. Crothers, M.A., D.D. (Bay of Quinte Conference), Belleville, Ont.

CURATOR :

Rev. Prof. J. F. McLaughlin, M.A., B D.
(Librarian Victoria College)

SECRETARY-TREASURER :

Rev. E. A. Chown, B.A., 31 Madison Ave., Toronto.

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Mr. J. Tait, Toronto.
Rev. F. H. Wallace, D.D., Toronto.
Mr. F. Walker, Toronto.
Rev. Geo. Webber, Toronto.
Rev. N. Wellwood, Dundalk.
Rev. R. Whiting, B.A., Toronto.
Rev. Geo. Young, D.D., Winnipeg.
Rev. W. H. Withrow, D. D., Toronto.

* Deceased

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LONDON CONFERENCE

The Conference on the recommendation of the Memorial Committee approved of the objects of the Society, advised the formation of a Conference Branch, and recommended the placing of all important documents and books in the custody of the Curator of the Society, the Librarian of Victoria College.

Affiliation

Since the Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee has applied for affiliation with the Historical Society of Ontario.

(Sgd.) E. A. CHOWN,
Secretary.

TORONTO, March 20th, 1903.